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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 DEAE-00 SNM-02 NSA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

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CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-04 FEAE-00 FPC-01 INT-05

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---------- 094119
R 131615Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9988
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XZ, DA
SUBJECT: NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING, NOV. 7-9

SUMMARY: THE NOV 7-9 NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING AT AALBORG WAS THE OCCASION FOR NOTABLY PESSIMISTIC SPEECHS BY THE DANISH PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO, INTER ALIA, INVOKED INCREASED NORDIC COOPERATION IN THE FACE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF WORLD ECONOMIC BREAKDOWN OR EVEN WAR. THE ENERGY QUESTION, AS ONE OF THE PRIME INGREDIENTS OF CRISIS, DOMINATED MUCH OF THE CONFERENCE, WITH NORWAY NIMBLY AVOIDING COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY OIL TO ITS NORDIC NEIGHBORS ON A PREFERENTIAL BASIS. A GENERAL RESOLUTION ON AN INVESTIGATION OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE NORDIC
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AREA WAS APPROVED INSTEAD OF ONE SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL

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DEMOCRATS WPCH AIMED AT EARLY DRAFT JOINT LEGISLATION ON
THE SUBJECT. EASTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL REFUGEES AND THE
PROGRESS - OR LACK OF IT - ON A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR NEW
AIRPORT AND LINKING TRANSPORTATION PROJECT BETWEEN
DENMARK AND SWEDEN WERE DISCUSSED. THE
COUNCIL ALSO RECEIVED THE ENCOURAGING REPORT FROM ALL THE
NORDIC COUNTRIES THAT NARCOTICS ABUSE IS NO LONGER GROWING.
A RETURN TO AN ANNUAL NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING WILL BEGIN
WITH THE NEXT SESSION IN REYKJAVIK IN FEBRUARY.
THE AALBORG MEETING WAS RENEWED EVIDENCE THAT THE TIES
AMONG THE NORDIC COUNTRIES ARE MORE OF SENTIMENT THAN OF
HARD ECONOMIC REALITY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS MORE THAN TWENTY-YEAR HISTORY,
THE NORDIC COUNCIL HELD A SESSION OUTSIDE OF ONE OF
THE NORDIC CAPITALS. IT WAS THE SECOND
PART OF THE COUNCIL'S TWENTY-SECOND SESSION, THE FIRST
PART OF WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN FEBRUARY 1974 IN SSTOCKHOLM.
BY CHOOSING AALBORG AS A VENUE, THE PARTICIPANTS REPORTEDLY
HOPED TO STRESS THAT THE NORDIC COUNCIL IS NOT ONLY FOR
GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO FOR PEOPLES. THIS SESSION MARKED
THE END OF A TWO-YEAR TRIAL PERIOD OF HAVING TWO COUNCIL
SESSIONS A YEAR. THE NEXT SESSION WILL BEHELD IN REYKJAVIK
FEBRUARY 15-20, 1975. ABOUT 60 NORDIC PARLIAMENTARIANS
PARTICIPATED AONG WITH 29 MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS NORDIC
GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE COUNCIL SESSION DREW MORE ATTENTION THAN USUAL BECAUSE
OF THE PESSIMISTIC TONE OF SPEECHS BY DANISH FOREIGN
MINISTER OVE GULDBERG AND PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING.
IN HIS SOMEWHAT OPAQUE REMARKS, GULDBERG STRESSED THE
RISK OF WORLD ECONOMIC BREAKDOWN AND EVEN WAR. HE
CHARACTERIZED THE PRESENT AS THE MOST DANGEROUS PERIOD
SINCE WORLD WAR II. HE SAID THAT EACH TIME NORDIC REP-
RESENTATIVES MEET THEY SHOULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF WHAT IS
HAPPENING AROUND THEM. "WE HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS IN
STOPPING OR LIMITING EXISTING CONFLICTS. WE HAVE THE SAME
RISK OF BEING SWEPT AWAY BY EVENTS WHETHER POLITICAL OR
ECONOMIC. WE HAVE A SPECIAL ASSOCIATION,BUT IT IS
CHARACTERISTIC ALSO THAT WE HAVE DIFFERENT LINES X COMMUNI-
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CATION TO THW WORLD OUTSIDE." HE NOTED THAT THE FUTURE WILL
HOLD DIFFERENT ECONOMIC FATES FOR THE NORDIC COUNTRIES BUT
THESE DIFFERENCES SHOULD NOT LEAD "TO A GREATER DISTANCE
AMONG OUR COUNTRIES IN COMPARISON WITH THE REST OF THE
WORLD, NOR SHOULD THEY LET SMALL ADVANTAGES TAKE PRECEDENCE
OVER NORDIC SOLIDARITY." GULDBERG TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS
SPEECH WAS PROMPTED BY SOME OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED
DURING HARLTING'S VISIT TO CHINA, TITO'S VISIT TO DENMARK,

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AND "OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS."

3. IN HIS ADDRESS, HARTLING WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "WE ARE BALANCING AT TEE EDGE OF COLLAPSE OF THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY ORDER...NO COUNTRIES OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES CAN LIVE IN ISOLATION." THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR IS STILL WIDENING AND IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL TO BUILD A BRIDGE ACROSS THIS GULF. POLITICAINAS MUST HAVE THE COURAGE OF RISKING UPOPULARITY AMONG VOTERS IN ORDER TO TAKE THE NECESSARY DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

4. ENERGY. THE NORWEGIANS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE REACTED WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION TO OCERTURES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES FOR AN AGREEMENT TO SHARE ON A PREFERENTIAL BASIS IN NORWEGIAN OIL PRODUCTION. FOR EXAMPLE, DANISH MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE POUL NYBOE ANDERSEN WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ANY NORWEGIAN PROMISES ABOUT THE SALE OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS. THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, INGVALD ULVESETH, SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE NORDIC STATES, AND PARTICULARLY THE NORWEGIAN GOVT, SHOULD BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF OIL AND OIL PRODUCTS. SUCH INCREASED INVOLVEMENT WAS A CONDITION FOR NORDIC ENERGY COOPERATION AND ALSO A QUESTION THAT WLD HAVE TO BE SETTLED BEFORE NORWAY CONCLUDED FINAL AGREEMENTS ON SUPPLIES TO OTHER NORDIC COUNTIRES. COPENHAGEN'S SKTUELT (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC) NOTED THAT SOME NORWEGIAN POLITICAL PARTIES WISHED TO GAIN NATIONAL CONTROL OF ALL DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIEIS.

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

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OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /089 W
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R 131615Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9989
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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5. MULTINATIONAL COPERATIONS. THE JURIDICAL
COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL WAS DIVIDED IN ITS RECOMMENDATION
TO THE COUNCIL ON THIS SUBJECT. A MAJORITY RECOMMENDED
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ROLE OF THE MULTINATIONALS IN THE
NORDIC ECONOMIES ALONG WITH AN EVALUATION WHETHER THERE
IS A BASIS FOR JOINT NORDIC LEGISLATION OR REGULATIONS. A
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MINORITY WANTED A MORE DETAILED MANDATE
AND THE IMMEDIATE PREPARATION OF DRAFT LEGISLATION ON THE
SUBJECT. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH NORDIC COUNCIL DELE-
GATION, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER ANKER JORGENSEN,
REGRETTED THAT THE PROPOSAL OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WAS
REJECTED BUT WELCOMED THE APPEARANCE AT THE AALBORG MEETING
OF INTER-NORDIC POLITICAL PARTY COOPERATION ACROSS NTIONAL
BORDERS ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES.

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6. EASTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL REFUGEES. THE
REYKJAVIK MEETING IN FEBRUARY WILL TKAE UP A LONG-STANDING
COMPLAINT BY DENMARK, PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST SWEDEN,
ON THE QUESTION OF SUCH REGUGEES. BECAUSE OF ALLEGED LACK
OF PROPER DOCUMENTATION, BETWEEN 100 AND 150 A YEAR ARE
DEPORTED FROM SWEDEN TO DENMARK, THE COUNTRY WHERE MOST
OF THEM ENTER THE NORDIC FREE-MOVEMENT ZONE.

7. SALTHOLM. ON NOV. 8 GULDBERG, IN ANSWERING A
QUESTIONS FROM ANORWEGIAN MEMBER, HEDGED ON THE COMMITMENT
OF THE DANISH GOVT TO RATIFY AND MOVE AHEAD ON THE ORESUND
PROJECTS. "...IT WOULD SET AN UNHAPPY PRECEDENT IN INTER-
NATIONAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY AMONG NORDIC COUNTRIES, IF
THE AGREEMENT WERE NOT TO BE RATIFIEID." (THE AGREEMENT
WOULD CREATE A MAJOR NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THE
ISLAND OF SALTHOLM BETWEEN SWDEN AND DENMARK. THE
ISLAND WOULD BE LINKED TO DENMARK BY A TUNNEL AND TO
SWEDEN BY A BRIDGE. CURRENTLY ESTIMATED COST OF THE DANES

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ALONG FOR THE PROJECT IS MORE THAN TEN BILLION KRONER (ABOUT US $1.6 BILLION).) DANISH PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER KRESTEN DAMSGAARD SAID HE EXPECTED A VOTE ON RATIFICATION BYT THE DANISH FOLKETING BEFORE CHRISTMAS. (COMMENT: SERIOUS CONTROVERSY IN DENMARK CONTINUES ON THE NEED FOR SUCH A PROJECT, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. A STUDY PUBLISHED NOV. 11, FOR EXAMPLE, CONCLUDED THAT COPENHAGEN'S PRESENT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT KASTRUP WITH A FEW IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO HANDLE PROJECTED NEEDS UNTIL THE YEAR 2000.)

8. NARCOTIC COOOPERATION. A JOINT NORDIC NARCOTIC RESEARCH GROUP WAS SET UP TO INVESTIGATE SUCH PROBLEMS. THE GROUP WAS GIVEN A THREE-YEAR ENTURE AND A BUDGET OF DKR 335,000 A YEAR (ABOUT US $56,000). TY COUNCIL RECEIVED ENCOURAGING INFORMATION FROM ALL THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES THAT NARCOTICS ABUSE IS NO LONGER GROWING.

9. COMMENT. THE AALBORG MEETING OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL IS RENEWED EVIDENCE THAT THE TIES BETWEEN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES ARE MORE OF SENTIMENT THAN OF HARD ECONOMIC REALITY. DENMARK, IN PARTICULAR, IS TORN BETWEEN ITS DESIRE TO REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING WITH ITS NORDIC
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BRETHREN AND THE INESCAPABLE FACT THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC HAS MADE THE NORDIC COUNCIL LESS SIGNIFICANT. EVEN THOSE WHO STILL OPPOSE DENMARK'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC -- AND THEY AREA SIZEABLE NUMBER -- DO NOT MAINTAIN SERIOUSLY THAT THE NORDIC RELATIONSHIP COULD IN ANY WAY SUBSTITUTE FOR THE BENEFITS OF THE COMMON MARKET. PRHAPS THE MOST ISGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE AALBORG MEETING WAS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST CNTINUES TO TAKE PREFERENCE OVER ANY SUPPOSES TIES OF BROTHERHOOD. THE NORWEGIAN ABILITY TO FEND OFF THE STRONG HINTS OF ITS FELLOW NORDICS FOR PREFENTIAL ACCESS TO THE NORWEGIAN OIL SUPPLY IS REVEALING IN THIS REGARD. THE PESSIMISTIC TONE IN GULDBERG'S SPEECH IS LITTLE DIFERENT FROM WHAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING IN PRIVATE AND, AS SEVERAL DANISH PAPRS NOTED, HE DESERVES CREDIT FOR BREAKING WITH THE CUSTOM OF NOT DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN NORDIC COUNCIL MEETINGS. NOT THE LEAST AMONG THE REASONS FOR RETURNING TO ANNUAL NORDIC COUNCIL MEETINGS IS THE EXPENSE OF MOVING CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TWICE A YEAR AND THE TIME LOST BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND MINISTERS AFFECTED.
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